

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
August 24, 2013 MINUTES

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on August 24th, 2013,
at 8:30am in the Mesa Utility Building Community Room, 640 N. Mesa Dr.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap, Chair
Susan Lotz, Vice Chair
Hong Chartrand
Cliff Moon
Talmage Pearce
Lu Ann Schmidt
Mark Tompert

MEMBERS ABSENT

Frank Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Arenas
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

Karen Kurtz

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Heap called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

- Orchidia Peterson's Resignation.

Ms. Heap advised the board of Ms. Peterson's resignation and acknowledged her work on the board.

- Heather McAlister's Resignation.

Ms. Heap advised the board of Ms. McAlister's resignation and acknowledged her work on the board.

- Introduction of new board members Lu Ann Schmidt and Mark Tompert.

The board welcomed Ms. Schmidt and Mr. Tompert.

2. Items from Citizens Present.*

There were no citizens that requested to speak.

3. Approval of minutes from the May 22nd, 2013 board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Moon to approve the May 22nd, 2013 minutes and Mr. Pearce seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Review and discuss the role of the Human Relations Advisory Board, including:

- History, mission statement, vision, and goals.
- Board member roles, protocols, and code of conduct.

Ms. Giese and Ms. Kurtz presented the background and history of HRAB. Ms. Kurtz explained the mission statement, vision, and goals of the board. The board members reflected on their mission and vision statements. Upon discussion, the board unanimously approved a new mission statement to read, "Create an inclusive, respectful, and equitable community", and a new vision statement to read, "The City of Mesa is a community that includes, respects, and is enriched by its diversity." Ms. Kurtz briefly discussed protocols and code of conduct, including the Open Meeting Laws governing how the board is to communicate with each other.

5. Review, discuss and provide direction on the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Kurtz led the board in updating the Strategic Plan. The board members discussed their previous year goals and accomplishments. The board identified new goals and standing activities for their FY 2013/2014 Work Plan. The following committees and task forces were established:

- Issues Research and Action Team: Denise Heap, Frank Johnson, Cliff Moon
- Disabilities Task Force: Mark Tompert, Denise Heap, Lu Ann Schmidt, Hong Chartrand
- Youth Diversity Education Team: Susan Lotz, Talmage Pearce
- Veterans Task Force: Denise Heap, Mark Tompert

A copy of the approved FY 2013/2014 Strategic Plan will be available on the HRAB webpage.

6. Hear, discuss, and take action on items presented by the Ad Hoc Issues Research and Action Team.

- Report on the Mesa Speaks, Mesa Listens: Community Conversation on Discrimination survey.

Ms. Kurtz provided the board on the progress of the project since the last meeting. Ms. Kurtz announced that she was also hired as a third party consultant to assist with the project. Staff had done research over the break and concluded that a community survey should be completed prior to a dialogue series in order to gain more insight from the community. A copy of the drafted survey was supplied for members to review. Staff advised that they were still researching implementation methods and they will report back to the board. A motion was made by Ms. Lotz to make a revision to the community dialogue process by conducting a community survey first; the motion was seconded by Mr. Moon. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Hear, discuss, and take action on inviting Senator Jeff Flake to march in the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade with HRAB in January 2014.

Ms. Lotz summarized recent news regarding Senator Jeff Flake's minor son who made some unfavorable comments. In order to educate and respond to this human relation issues in the community, Ms. Lotz would like to recommend that the board send an invitation for the Senator and his family to march in the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade. Mr. Moon, who is also a member of the Mesa Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, suggested that the invitation also include participation in the post-march festival. The board agreed to readdress the action during the September meeting after further consideration.

8. Hear and discuss conferences and/or meetings.

- Regional HRC Meeting held on August 21st, 2013.

Ms. Giese provided an overview of the regional work and their partners: City of Mesa, City of Tempe, City of Chandler, City of Phoenix, City of Scottsdale and Town of Gilbert. Ms. Lotz provided a summary of the Regional HRC Meeting hosted by the City of Chandler. Ms. Lotz advised that there was a presentation regarding the proposed immigration bill and how the Latino community is responding favorably. Ms. Heap commented that she was impressed with the City of Chandler on their work with the youth, and their coordination and collaboration with local agencies to provide services such as the Back to School drive.

- Community Cinema Series- The Graduate/ Los Graduados, September 19th, 6pm, Mesa Arts Center.

Ms. Giese informed of the board's sponsorship of the Community Cinema Series events. The upcoming event, The Graduate, will be held in October not September as previously advised.

9. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- Next meeting will be held on September 25th, 2013 at 6pm.

10. Take group photo for website.

The board members took a group photo for the website.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:18pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator